



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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## Romania

### Poultry and Products

### Avian Influenza - Update

**2006**

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**Report Highlights:**

This is an update for GAIN Report 6011. Currently there are 15 active Avian influenza (AI) outbreaks out of a total of 127 cases which occurred during the second AI wave in May. As poultry meat sales drastically decreased and the poultry breeders continued to accumulate stocks, the Ministry of Agriculture recently doubled the amount allocated for financial support. US poultry meat is no longer eligible for the Romanian market as the EU health certificate model was enforced on June 8, 2006 and no U.S. poultry plant is approved for EU exports.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Sofia [BU1]  
[RO]

The speed at which AI is spreading decreased very much in the last two weeks, and no new outbreaks were detected since June 8. The total number of outbreaks reached 127 since May, and they were located in 18 counties as well as the Bucharest area (please see Map 1). Currently there are still remaining 15 AI active outbreaks in the counties of Brasov, Prahova, Arges, Ilfov, Giurgiu and Harghita (please see Map 2).

Confronted with a high rate of spreading, the GOR amended the strategy towards culling birds. According to the previous strategy, until laboratory tests confirmed the presence of H5, only the birds in the affected premises would be culled. To date, in 99% of the cases the rapid tests have been confirmed to be H5 by additional laboratory tests therefore, the GOR decided that in order to avoid having the virus spread further, as soon as the rapid tests indicated AI presence, all birds in the area (within 3 km) are to be culled.

The preliminary findings of the epidemiological investigation on the source of infection for the second AI wave revealed that there are two possible channels that may have allowed the infection to spread: 1) the absence of proper biosecurity measures being implemented; including for humans and vehicular transportation, and 2) wild birds. About 80% of the outbreaks were due to the sale of live poultry from the infected farms.

In the effort to limit the virus from spreading, the Anti-epizootics Committee took the following measures:

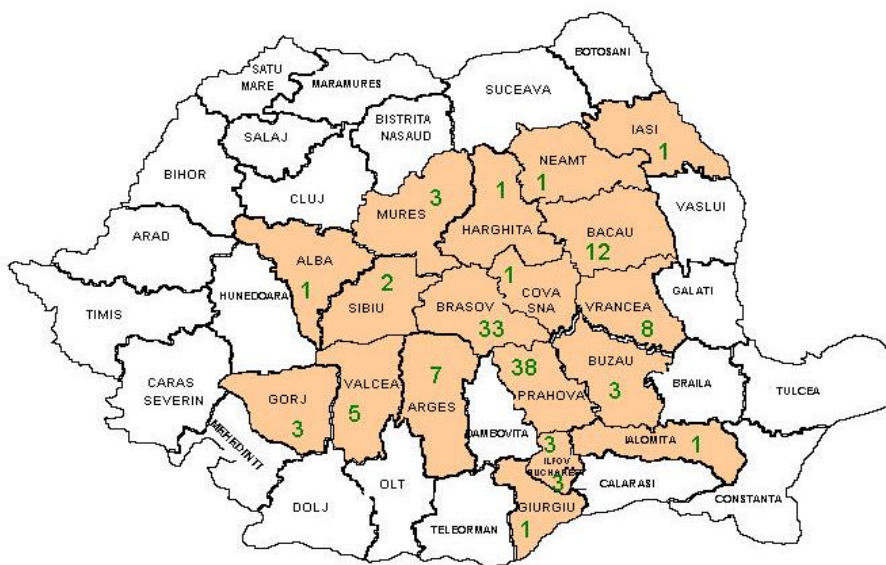
- increase the number of samples for AI testing in the high-risk areas
- increase inspections in the poultry farms and see to what extent the biosecurity measures are being observed
- enforce severe penalties for households which do not keep the birds inside the yard
- prohibit the transport of live poultry
- forbid the selling of poultry from backyard farms
- any disease suspicion or mortality in poultry has to be immediately announced to veterinarians

Almost 1 million birds were culled during the second AI wave in May, compared to 421,000 birds culled during October-December last year. The majority of them, 764,865 birds, belonged to commercial farms located in Codlea Platform, while 211,035 birds belonged to over 14,000 households in the countryside.

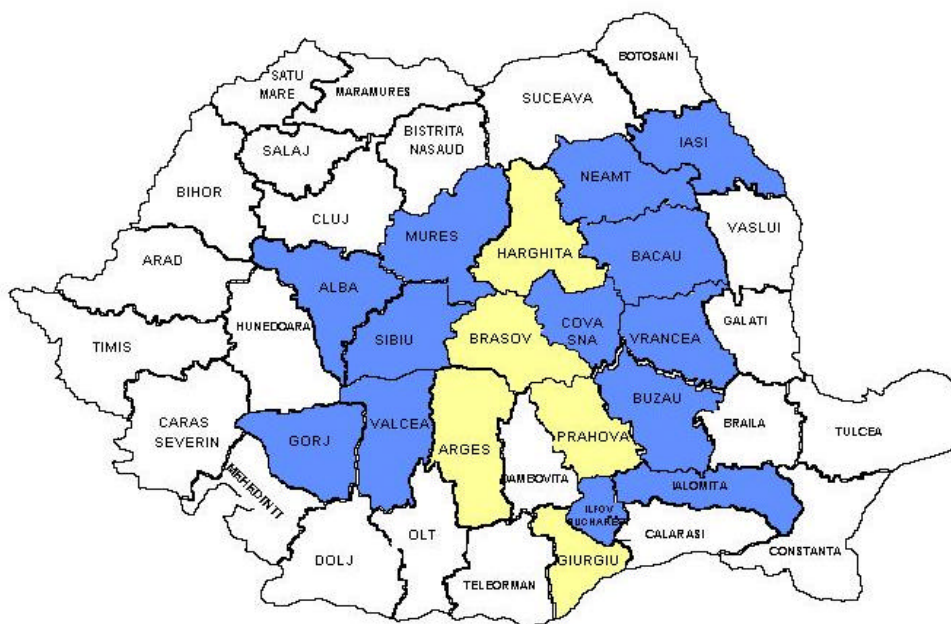
According to representatives of poultry producers, poultry meat consumption decreased by 50-80% during May and poultry producers continued to accrue meat stocks. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development decided to double the support level for domestic poultry producers. The subsidy level reached \$1 for a bird of at least 1.75 kg/bird delivered to authorized slaughterhouses. The financial help is granted only to companies observing the biosecurity rules as described in the updated veterinary legislation.

As it was specified in our GAIN report 6012, following pressure from domestic poultry producers confronted with sharp drops in consumption, the National Sanitary-Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (NSVFSA) enforced earlier than scheduled the EU health certificate model, so that current U.S. poultry meat is not eligible for export to Romania.

**Map 1. H5 outbreaks in Romania, second wave in May, 2006  
(no. of outbreaks per each affected county)**



**Map 2. Active and extinguished H5 outbreaks in Romania, June 30, 2006**



Extinguished outbreaks



Active outbreaks